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(54) SPAM detector with challenges

(57) A system and method facilitating detection of unsolicited e-mail message(s) with challenges is provided. The invention includes an e-mail component and a challenge component. The system can receive e-mail message(s) and associated probabilities that the e-mail message(s) are spam. Based, at least in part, upon the associated probability, the system can send a challenge

to a sender of an e-mail message. The challenge can be an embedded code, computational challenge, human challenge and/or micropayment request. Based, at least in part, upon a response to the challenge (or lack of response), the challenge component can modify the associated probability and/or delete the e-mail message.

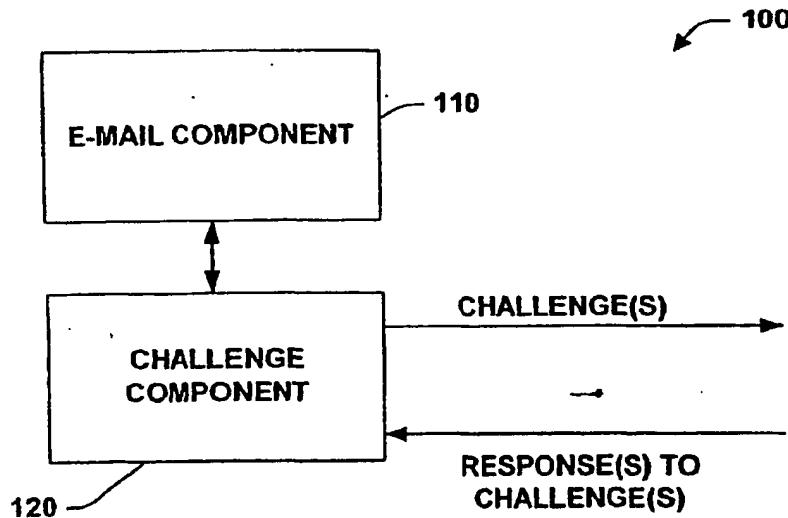


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.)
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Y	WO 99 10817 A (COBB CHRISTOPHER ALAN) 4 March 1999 (1999-03-04) * abstract * * page 3, line 4 - line 17 * * page 7, line 19 - page 8, line 10 * * page 16, line 19 - line 23 * * page 11, line 18 - line 21 * * page 28, line 27 - line 30 * * figure 7 *	1-36	
Y	US 6 112 227 A (HEINER JEFFREY NELSON) 29 August 2000 (2000-08-29) * abstract * * column 2, line 1 - line 10 * * column 3, line 58 - column 4, line 1 * * column 4, line 15 - line 30 * * figure 2 *	1-36	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.) G06F
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	21 January 2004	Rossier, T	
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<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>													
<i>EPO FORM 160100 07 (PACON)</i>	Place of search THE HAGUE	Date of completion of the search 21 January 2004	Examiner Rossier, T										
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS <table> <tr> <td>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</td> <td>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</td> <td>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A : technological background</td> <td>D : document cited in the application</td> </tr> <tr> <td>O : non-written disclosure</td> <td>L : document cited for other reasons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P : intermediate document</td> <td>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</td> </tr> </table>				X : particularly relevant if taken alone	T : theory or principle underlying the invention	Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category	E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date	A : technological background	D : document cited in the application	O : non-written disclosure	L : document cited for other reasons	P : intermediate document	& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document
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